

Extract from
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo
29 March 1946

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Q Were you not responsible for the rules, the orders and the action taken which led to the sentences of execution or imprisonment of American fliers since 7 December 1941?

A Of course I am responsible for army orders and regulations.

Q You mean for such orders and regulations?

A Well, I am not just sure what ones you refer to. I don't remember any regulations particularly directed against fliers before 18 October 1942 when Japan was raided by American fliers. There may have been some before that, but I don't remember clearly. I do remember that there were some after that.

Q For what actions taken at that time or afterwards in this connection were you responsible?

A The raid on 18 October 1942 was contrary to international law. It was not against troops but against non-combatants, primary school students, and so forth. We knew this and, since this was not permitted by international law, it was homicide (satsu-jin). Japan acted on this concept and I ordered (kaketa) courts martial (gunritsu kaigi), or at least they were just about like courts martial. You probably won't be able to understand this unless you understand something about Japanese feelings at this time. This was the first time Japan had been bombed, and it was a great shock. Public feeling ran very high. Now, of course, since the indiscriminate bombing of medium and small cities which were undefended and the use of the atom bomb, all things which are not permitted under international law, the tragic spectacle of this country today makes this first raid look like a very small thing, but it was a great shock to the people at the time.

Q And the extreme punishments meted out to these first fliers were mainly given as a deterrent to prevent future raids, were they not?

A Yes, they were for that reason. There was a demand from Imperial Headquarters. The Army Chief of Staff came to me directly and demanded severe punishment for the fliers.

Q Who was the Army Chief of Staff?

A SIGIYAMA.

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Q What did you say in reply, and what did you do as a result of this request?

A I issued this order. It was an order for military administration. As to the form, I am not positive whether the order was issued over my name or by Imperial Headquarters, but no matter who issued it, I am responsible for it.

Q Who else from Imperial Headquarters was the Chief of Staff speaking for when he made the request that he did of you for this punishment?

A He came on his own responsibility, not representing anyone else. I remember this because the Chief of Staff didn't often come to me directly about things.

Q Did you receive any order from the Emperor in this connection, or discuss the matter with him or report to him before taking the action that you did?

A The Emperor is not related at all to this problem. When the report of the court martial came from China to the Chief of Staff and to myself, the verdict, as I recall it, was that all eight men were to be executed. The Chief of Staff came to me and demanded that the findings of the court be carried out. I knew, however, of the Emperor's benevolence and, with that in mind, and because of his feelings, wished to have only the minimum number of men executed. Therefore, it was decided that only the three who had killed primary school students would receive the death penalty. This was discussed with the Emperor, since the Emperor in Japan is the only one who can commute a sentence, and it was decided that way. That one point was the Emperor's only relation to the thing.

Q So the Emperor reviewed all eight cases and commuted the death penalties from eight to three?

A No, he didn't review them. In Japan, courts martial have only one hearing. That is because of their military character. Ordinary trials have three hearings.

Q On what basis did the Emperor take this action? Did you propose it?

A Yes, I did. It was on my responsibility as adviser to the Throne, but the commutation was the Emperor's because of the fact that the Emperor is invariably benevolent.

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Q Was not this order, which was issued by you for the trial and punishment of these fliers, an ex post facto law?

A Yes, it was.

Q Then the order of occurrences was as follows: the raid, the capture of the fliers, the order which you issued, the trial, and the executions?

A Yes.

Q And the order that you issued provided for the trial and punishment?

A Yes, it was the basis. However, the order, in turn, was based on the fact of the raid. Of course the order was not an order to execute eight men, it was an order whereby trials could be held based on the fact of the raid.

Q So that, as the result of the raid, this order or law was promulgated by you and made retroactive to the date of the raid?

A Yes.

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文書第四二八三A号

一九四六年三月二十九日東條英機部同報筆

第一—四頁

問、一九四一年十二月七日以降米國軍機飛行士、死刑若三
ハ、投獄、判決ラセタミナ規則、命令及措置ニ
付貴方ハ責任者デアリニセシタカ。

答、勿論私ハ陸軍、命令、規則、責任者デアリス。

問、又上、命令、規則、意味デアリスネ。

答、ヤ、ド、分ラ御有ツテキルカハツキリシマセ。私ハ日本が米
國飛行隊ヨリ爆撃ヲ受ケタ九四二年十月十日ハ朝
ニ特ニ飛行士ニ付スル規則ト云フノヲ記憶シテ居リマ
ス。ソノ以テハイクニカアツタカモ知ラセ。ミカミハツキリ
ニ居リマセ。其ノ後ニ若干アツタハ覺エテ居リス。

問、今付ニ付テ、其ノ時或ハ甘、後ニ執ラレタ如何ナル處置
ニ付貴方ハ責任ガアルデスカ。

答、一九四三年十月十日ノ空襲ハ國際法違反デタ。ソノ
軍隊ニ付スルモノデナク非戦闘員ト事ヲ生等ニ付スルモ
デタ。私共ハ其ノ事實ヲ承知シテ居リニミタソミテソノ
國際法デハ許サレテ居ラカッタモノ、教人デタ。日本ハ此
ノ觀念デ行動スルコト、私ハ軍律會議（殆ト軍法
會議ト云フベキモノ）ニ掛ケタデス。

貴方ハ其時、日本人ノ心持ヲ少ニデモ即承知デタケド
上ノ事方ハ御了解ニテラナイデセ。之ハ日本が初メ爆
撃ヲ受ケタ時、大キキ衝動デアツタデス。一般感情ハ非童
興奮ニシタ。勿論命令ハ要防備ノ中小都市ノ要差利爆撃ヲ

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原子爆弾、使用等(スベテ)国際法に許されナイ事案アリ。又、
今日、此、国、悲慘ト光景示、右、最初、空襲ヲ一些事ニ
過ギナイモノ、如クミテニヒミタガ當時、国民ニ取リ誠ニ大
キテ衝動、テスツタデス。

問 此、最初、飛行士ニ課セラレタ極刑ハ三トミテ將來、爆
撃ヲ防グ威嚇ノ意味ガスツタデス。

答 左様デス。其ノ意味ノモノデシタ。大本營カラ要、所アリ
ミタ。多謀總長ガ直接、私ノ處ニ來テ飛行士ニ對シ威罰
ヲ要スルミタデス。

問 多謀總長ハ誰デスカ。

答 杉山デス。

問 貴方ハ何ト迄事ヲミミタカ、ソレデ、此、要、結果貴方ト
ウ處置ミシタカ。

答 私ハ貴ノ命令ヲ受ミシタ。ソレハ軍政ニ付スル命令デアリミタ。而テト
ミ、命令ガ私、名ヲ出タカ大本營ニ依テ出タカ、ソレニ居リ己
ガ、誰ガ出シタニセヨ、私ガ責任者デス。

問 多謀總長ガ此ノ刑ニ付テ貴方ニ要スルミタ、大本營内地、誰
バ命者トミテヤツタデスカ。

答 總長ハ強斷、テヤツテ來ミタ。誰モ外ノ人、代表テ來タ、テ、アリセニ
總長、直接、來ルコトハ、減多ニカツタデ、此、コトヲ、電ニテ居リス。

問 貴方ハ指置ヲ取ルニ則ニ此ノ事ヲ天皇カラ何カ命令ヲ受テタ。
トハ天皇ニ相談ヲミ、或ハ天皇ニ報告ヲミタコト、アリ
ミタカ。

答 天皇ハ全然、此ノ問題ニ干與セラレセニ。 中国カラ軍律會

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議、報告が参謀總長に於て既に其の判決を以て了す。今此の
思ひ出さるべきは一々全部の死刑にせしむべきに在り。總長
は此の處に於て此の會議、判決の實行を以て發せしむる要求が有る
。然し此の天皇、仁愛の心で此の事を知りて思ひ出さる。一
つ其のことは若くは天皇、御心持の若くは最も、若くは死刑の
希望を以て思ひ出さる。此のことは、學生の殺害の三人、又死刑の
受けることは決定する。此のことは天皇と御相談する。此のことは
日本の死刑に於ては、天皇の一人に於ける。このことは
天皇に決定する。天皇が本件に關與せしむる、此のことは、
肉、このことは天皇に、此のことは、再審の死刑に、このことは、
三人に於ける、此のことは、

答、一、二、天皇に再審のことは、此のことは、日本の法律會議
に、審問する。此のことは、軍事裁判所に於ける。昔、裁
判に三審制に於ける、此のことは、

肉、何に於ける天皇に、此のことは、此のことは、此のことは、
此のことは、

答、左様です。輔弼、責任ある者として發せしむ。然し裁判に天
皇、このことは、天皇に、此のことは、此のことは、

肉、このことは、飛行士、裁判及び刑罰に關する、此のことは、命令に、此のことは、
法律に、此のことは、

答、左様です。

肉、このことは、事件進行、順序、次、通り、此のことは、此のことは、
飛行士、逮捕、責任、此のことは、命令、裁判、刑、執行、此のことは、

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答. 左様です。

由. ソレを貴え、又命令に裁判と用罰とを設ける、と云ふ。

答. 左様です。ソレが基礎に上つて居る。然し命令は、此の空
虚たる事実を基として居る、と云ふ。勿論其、命令は、法、刑
ヲ執行スル命令に上つて居る。其、命令は、此の空虚、事實に
基つて裁判が行はれる、と云ふ、と云ふ。

由. ソレをスルと空虚、結果として貴えが此、命令は、法律に上
つて空虚、と云ふ、と云ふ、と云ふ、と云ふ、と云ふ。

答. 左様です。

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Q Did not the heads of the various Prison camps have to make a monthly report to the Military Bureau with respect to the prisoners under their care in connection with food, health, labor, and so forth?

A I think they did on a basis of regulations. This is a routine matter.

Q And those reports were consolidated, were they not, and sent to the War Minister?

A The War Minister received a stack of papers about a foot and a half high each day, and I suppose that was among them.

Q You do know, do you not, that those reports were compiled and forwarded to the War Minister?

A The extracts were probably reported on at the meetings of the bureau chiefs which took place twice weekly.

Q Was the matter of the death rate from malnutrition, and other causes, shown by these reports discussed at these meetings?

A Yes, it was, and I paid particular attention to it. The responsibility for these matters belongs to the army commanders in the field. However, when they couldn't fulfill their responsibilities, they would make requests of the War Ministry. These requests came to the chief of the Military Affairs Bureau and, after consultation between the latter and the commanders in the field, the War Ministry would take action either by sending food, or some other means.

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Doc 4183B 一九四六年三月二十九日東條英機 訊問 拔萃

第六十七頁

問. 各俘虜收容所長、其、取扱ニカ、ル俘虜、食事健康労働等ニ付軍務局ニ月報ヲ出スコトニナツテ居タリデハナイデスカ

答. 規則ニ基キテヤツテ居タト思ヒマス。之ハ習例、事デス

問. ソレヲ其、報告ハ取リメテ陸軍大臣ニ届ケラレタリデス。陸軍大臣ハ毎日一尺五寸カラアル高サノ沢山、書類ヲ受テ取ツテ居リミタ、テ其、中ニアツタト思ヒマス。

問. 之等、報告書ハ纏メテ陸軍大臣ニ提出サシタトイフ事ヲミヅナヒスカドウデスカ

答. 其、抜萃ハ多分毎週二回開催、局長會議ニ報告サシテ居タモイ思ヒマス。

問. 之等、報告書ニ示サレタ栄養不良其、他ノ原因ニヨル死亡率ノコト、此ノ局長會議ヲ論議サシタリデスカ。

答. 左様デス。私ハ其、實ニ特ニ注意シテ居リミタ。此ノ事項ニ付テ、責任ハ現地ノ軍司令官ニアリマス。然レ軍司令官ガ責任ヲ果シ得ナイ時ハ陸軍省ニ要求ヲスルコトニナツテ居マシタ。此ノ要求ハ軍務局長、如ニ来テ軍務局長ト現地司令官ト協議、後陸軍省ハ食糧ヲ送ルトカ其、他ノ方法ニヨル処置ヲトルコトニナツテ居マシタ。

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